The Blank Box Newsletter

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15 May, 1988

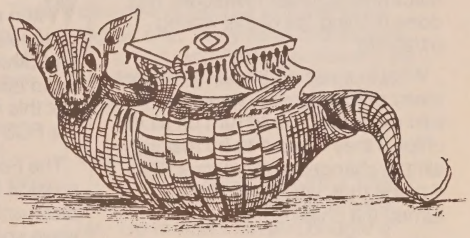
"Your Source for the Latest News About Black Box Devices and De-Scrambling"

Wizards, Super Lizards, & Armadillos?

Major Advances in Chip Technology Continue

Attack of the Armadillos sounds like a plot from a low budget movie, but it isn't (yet). The Armadillo, like the Wizard, the Chameleon, and the Super Lizard are the names of the newest enhancement chips for the VC II using the latest in VC busting technology.

By now, most people know about the Wizard technology, the 'keyless' fix that allows VC II owners to authorized their units by entering monthly codes through the front panel of the VC II. This type of technology bypasses the problems associated with clones, but does require knowledge of monthly codes and keyboard entry by consumers.



Shortly after the Wizard, came the Wizard Plus, the Wizard Two, and the Super Wizard, all enhancements of the original Wizard. Software developers recently began incorporating Wizard technology with other techniques, and the Chameleon (or Super Lizard) was born. The Chameleon Chip can be toggled between clone or Wizard technology, which eliminates the data entry requirement of the Wizard. The Chameleon combines the advantages of the Wizard and the Clone, and offers multiple tiers of protection.

Within the last few weeks, the Armadillo chip has appeared. This chip provides three separate technologies that can be toggled on or off by the user. The Armadillo includes Wizard, main clone and hidden clone (each with separate keys). The advantage of these multiple technologies, is that if one is turned off, the chip can still operate on the remaining technologies. There is no doubt that even more impressive chips are still to come, it seems like the only hard part is coming up with a catchy name that sells.

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Massive Counter Measures Ineffective (So Far)

Reports in recent issues of most mainstream satellite press would lead the uninformed reader to believe that sometime in early April, G/I had been successful in turning off most modified VC II's. These reports are simply not true, and may be an attempt to convince programmers that G/I has piracy under control.

As of 04/30/88, no chips had been turned off due to G/I's electronic counter measures. There have been a very limited number of turn offs of the early 010 series of VC II's, but these were not limited to modified VC II's, and seem to be related to the number of services a unit was subscribed too. If you subscribe to just one service, expect to be turned off.

From The Editors Desk

Confusion in Control?

Another month has come and gone without any major action to control the widespread use of modified VC II's in the satellite industry. To me, this is simply amazing, considering all the anti-piracy publicity that we've seen lately.

What is most amazing and confusing about the entire situation is that General Instruments, which has always contended it has the ability to shut down modified VC II's using Electronic Counter Measures, has done nothing (as of this writing 04/29/88).

What is amazing about this is that many of the chip developers have told me that GI could turn off all the chips if they wanted to by making simple changes in the data stream. If this is true, why haven't they turned the chips off?

Maybe they aren't using electronic counter measures to turn chips off because the same counter measures would affect the legal boxes as well. Or maybe they are afraid of legal action if they turned any boxes off using electronic counter measures. (There has been a legal precedent set in this area where GI was found guilty and had to pay court costs and other expenses for turning off a VC II.)

GI knows that killing modified VC II's also kills the sales of new VC II's and that hurts GI's bottom line. Maybe that's why they haven't turned boxes off.

Maybe GI is waiting for the market to be saturated with VC II's before they pull the plug.

But, maybe GI has a longer range plan. If you've kept up with VC II sales figures then you know that GI has delivered over 1 million VC II's. While many of those units never reached U.S. soil, at least 750,000 have and are in the hands of consumers. If you assume that there are about 1 and a half million operating dishes in this country, you realize that half the satellite owners in the country already own a VC II. GI may be waiting until they have saturated the market with the current VC II, before they pull the plug on this technology.

Taking it Away From Hams

When regular communication channels are knocked out in natural and other disasters, short wave radio operators come to the rescue. But this may soon be changing if the FCC gets their way.

The Federal Communication Commission is strongly considering a proposal to reallocate the radio wave spectrum, giving a smaller share to short-wave radios. The beneficiaries of this move would be commercial business (taxi drivers and others who use radio dispatches).

The amateur radio operators also stand to lose their packet-radio systems, which allow computers to transmit information over the radio waves. During emergencies, short wave operators speed the flow of information by sending lists of of victims and supplies via computer.

Some hobbyist say they will be left with as much as $10,000 worth of useless equipment if the FCC tampers with current allocation of the airwaves.

Those who want the FCC to make changes say it will accommodate a new technology. And they argue that the short wave radio operators under-use their part of the spectrum.

In this battle of commercial interests versus public access to the airwaves, the FCC will probably ignore individual and public rights, and give in to the commercial interests. And we all will lose.

Satellite Reception to be Restricted?

It is almost unconceivable that the Ham radio operators could lose their frequency, but did you know there is a move underway to do the same to home dish owners?

There is and this is how they are trying to do it. In the S889 bill, which is supposed to protect our satellite viewing rights, there is an attempt to add an amendment which would set aside a satellite frequency for commercial use only, not intended for home dish owners. All equipment needed to receive this frequency would require commercial licenses and not be available to home dish owners.

The commercial uses of this frequency would not be limited, and would probably include all premium channels and other services meant for the cable market.

The frequency being proposed is within the KU-band, and it is expected that their will be little opposition to the amendment.

If the amendment is added, and if the bill is passed, it may mean that when KU technology finally takes off, that it will not be available to home dish owners.

This may be the long range plan of cable companies to control the home dish market. KU is expected to dominate satellite industry within 3 to 5 years, and plans call for centralized high power (150 watt) satellite beaming 48 channels to 1 meter dishes all over the country. It's a sure bet that cable won't let KU take off until they have tight control of this means of communication distribution. Only time will tell.

Letters to the Blank Box

Unethical?

Dear BBN,

I don't think it is ethical to accept money for an ad, and then simultaneously advise your readers not to purchase The advertiser's services, or at least in so many words. If you had reservations about a company, you should have refused the ad.

A Subscriber.

(Editors Note: Due to many letters like this from our readers, we have changed our policy regarding advertisers. If we receive a number of legitimate complaints about any advertiser, we will not accept any further ads from that advertiser.)

The Good Guys

Dear Blank Box,

With all the 'pans' of different chip merchants, I feel compelled to give a big 'pat' to V.C. Hacker.

I've dealt with him for many many months and quite a few bucks. His prices are competitive, his chips are first rate, the updates are on time and his phone always answers. In this industry, could anyone ask more?

Michigan

Dear Bill,

I just wanted to tell you how much I like your paper. I know its a lot of help to people like myself.

I also want to say that CNH treated me like a King. They are very good people, and that's saying a lot these days.

A good friend

Postal Woes

Dear Bill,

I really have enjoyed the Blank Box Newsletter since I've been getting it. I'm not a chipper or a pirate -- just a computer nut who also enjoys TVRO. But I've started having a problem with my subscription. I just received today (3-28-88) Vol. 3 #2, or at least, most of it. It was pretty badly torn up. I'm still waiting on Vol. 3, #1, I never received it.

I'm beginning to wonder if the post office isn't in cahoots with G.I.??!! They must REALLY hate Testron -- about half the page was missing from their ad.

I got quite a chuckle out of your comments on the anti-piracy kit and what to do about it -- I simple MUST have one of those kits! My own method to stop piracy is expensive, but guaranteed to work. I'd GIVE those Wizard chips to every owner of a VC II. That's right -- mail one to everybody who owned a VC II. That detective agency would be so busy arresting "Pirates", they'd all die of exhaustion, then we could get their names off the gravestones and send them into G.I. Unworkable, I know, but wouldn't it be fun??!!

Gary

Dear Gary,

Sorry to hear about the mail delivery problem with your newsletter. It is a frustrating, and all to common a problem. That's why we now offer a first class upgrade to our subscribers. This way you get your newsletter on time, and undamaged.

As for your other ideas, they are great. For anyone interested in getting a anti-piracy action kit, the phone number is 1-800-356-3160.

Bill

Wants B-Mac Information

Dear Blank Box,

Being a subscriber to your newsletter for the past two years, I look forward to receiving it and finding out what's going on, and who's got what. Now my question. Every time there is a major event, I find the audio, but the video is all scrambled. Even with adjusting my Sparks black box - nothing.

Through probing a little, I find the scrambling system is Scientific Atlanta's B-MAC scrambling system. Can you help me? Being a lover of sports do you know of anybody that cracked B-MAC video, and if so how can I get in touch with them.

Please print this letter because I know there are a lot of others who are wondering the same and are awaiting the cure.

I leave awaiting the next newsletter, and again keep up the good work.

Bernie in Sauquit, NY

Dear Bernie,

I don't know of anyone who has a B-MAC buster at this time, but I do know of people who are working on one. They have some leads in Europe, and have promised to advertise in this newsletter when they have a solution to B-MAC.

Dear BBN,

I've been a subscriber for a long time and I really enjoy the newsletter. Up to now I haven't bought a VC II. Now with Disney & PBS scrambling one doesn't have much choice.

I can understand why Disney can scramble, but how can PBS?

In the area we live we can't pick up any TV without satellite dish, and now I can't pick up any decent TV without a satellite dish and a descrambler.

My two children won't be watching Sesame Street or any of the fine programs on PBS. Its difficult to explain to a three year old why Public Broadcast TV can scramble a signal paid for by taxpayers.

What is this world coming too?

M.M

Dear M.M.

Apparently big business is in control of all parts of our lives, including our government. Congress promised PBS would never scramble. They lied (again).

Bill

Letters to the Editor may be sent to: The Blank Box Newsletter, 100 Bridge ST., #27, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

Industry News

U.S. Customs Confiscate Mexico Bound VC II's

The single largest VC II seizure in history occurred Thursday March 31, when U.S. Customs agents armed with search warrants raided the warehouses of Echosphere Corp., in Miami, Dallas and Arizona. Seized were 9,021 VC II's worth more than Three Million Dollars.

Along with Echosphere, other companies including Esaw's Telecommunications, Pan American Import/Export, and Miami based Electrosat were also raided. VC II's that were believed to be destined for export were also seized at those locations.

The VC II is covered by Title USC2778, a U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which was designed to prevent sensitive military technology from leaking to potential enemies.

It appears that all the raids were the result of suspected illegal exportation of restricted technology, which by a broad definition includes the VC II. The VC II is covered by Title USC2778, a U.S. Arms Export Control Act, which was designed to prevent sensitive military technology from leaking to potential enemies. A violation of this act is considered to be a felony.

Echosphere, which has been the largest single distributor of both satellite equipment and VC II's, and is one of the top three satellite equipment manufacturers in the U.S.A., said it has done nothing wrong.

In a press release, Echosphere stated that it has over 300 export licenses issued by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and has exported satellite equipment since 1983. Echosphere also stated that "Echosphere Corporation's policies and procedures conform to guidelines and policies of General Instrument Corporation who exclusively controls the distribution of the VideoCipher."

Some industry insiders have speculated that this raid on Echosphere was engineered by General Instruments to damage Echosphere's sales in the satellite industry. Echosphere is the number one manufacturer of satellite receivers (Houston Tracker brand), and General Instruments is the second largest. With Echosphere out of the way, General Instruments would control the satellite equipment market.

Charlie Ergen, the president of Echosphere, in testimony before Congress referred to General Instruments as "Gouging Instruments" in reference to their monopolistic trade practices. It appears that GI may not like this kind of talk and has put pressure on Echosphere to keep their mouth closed and to either play by GI's rules or get out of the game.

It is ironic that U.S law prevents the VC II from being exported, when the device is not even built in this country.

Considering the security problems with the VC II, we might be doing our Intelligence Agencies a favor if we could convince unfriendly governments to scramble their top secret messages with VC II technology.

Barry of Baltimore Busted

Barry Kolonder, known to many FM America listeners as "Barry from Baltimore", has become the first person to be criminally charged of possessing and selling tampered Videocipher decoders and chips.

Kolonder pleaded guilty to one count of criminal copyright infringement and violation of the piracy section of the federal communication act. He also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to intercept encrypted satellite signals.

According to charges filed by the U.S. Attorney's office in federal court in Maryland, Kolonder engaged in activities designed to received unauthorized satellite TV- and assist others in doing so. The charges indicated that Kolonder had crossed U.S. borders to obtain technology and devices to aid in the breaking of satellite transmission devices.

Kolonder was fined $25.00, given a one year suspended jail sentence, and required to participate for 30 days in the "Volunteers of America".

The Mexican Connection

With a strong demand for VC II's in the U.S., why would dealers be interested in selling them across U.S. borders? The answer is money. A stock VC II outside U.S. borders is worth two to three times what it would be worth stateside.

The reason for this big difference in price is that in order to receive any American TV outside of this country you must have a satellite dish and a decoder. There are hundreds of thousands of dish owners in Mexico and in other southern countries willing to pay what ever they must to get a VC II. It is estimated there are already over 200,000 VC II's in Mexico, and the number is steadily growing.

De-Scrambling Notebook

How Good are the Modification Chips on the Market?

The first question that most people ask, upon finding out that *magic* chips are availabe to *enhance* the performance of the VC II, is "What can these chips do?".

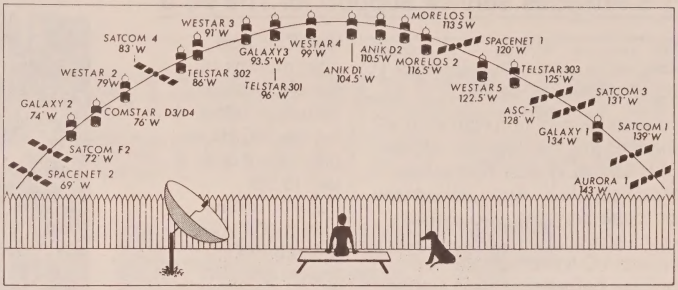
Two years ago, when the chips first came out, the fact that they could unscramble any services at all was good news to many consumers. The early chips could descramble the video on all the VC II encrypted services, and audio on about half of the VC II encrypted services. None of the chips could descramble either audio or video on any other scrambled format.

Now days, almost all the chips on the market will give full audio and video on all VC II encrypted services, including Pay-Per-View and services not offered to the satellite market.

Over the past two years, tremendous progress has been made in the technology used to program the VC II enhancement chips. Now, almost all the chips on the market will give full audio and video on all VC II encrypted services, including Pay-Per-View. In addition, most of the new chips will give video on some non VC scrambled services, and a handful of chips are starting to give video and audio on a limited number other scrambling formats.

The Chart at the left was provided by Testron and gives a good Idea what todays chips can do. As you can see, the vast majority of VC II encrypted signals are de-scrambled by the Protec Test device.

This information is provided only to document products that are available in the satellite underground. Some of these products are illegal to use in certain areas. The Publisher does not condone nor encourage the illegal use of any of these products.



WHAT CAN I GET WITH A TESTRON PROTEC TEST DEVICE

Spacenet 1	Trans.
SELECT-TV (Movies)	3
AMERICAN EXXXTASY	18

Galaxy 3	
VIDEO HITS ONE (VH-1)	15
HOME PREMIER TV	16 (3)
MTV	17
VIEWERS CHOICE 2 (PPV)	18
NICKELODEON (East)	19
VIEWERS CHOICE 1 (PPV)	21 (3)

Satcom F4	
AMERICAN MOVIE CLASSICS	10
CABLE VIDEO STORE	16 (3)
SUPERSTATION WPIX, NY (Ind)	19
NOSTALGIA CHANNEL	21

Galaxy 2	
TUXXEDO NETWORK	10

Satcom F2R	
WBBM-TV Chicago (CBS)	2
WABC-TV New York (ABC)	4
WXIA-TV Atlanta (NBC)	12

Spacenet 2	
TELSTAR MOVIES (PPV)	1 (3)
TELSTAR PREVIEWS	3
SELECT-TV (Movies)	9
ESPN (feeds)	18 (1)
TELSTAR MOVIES (PPV)	23 (3)

Satcom F1	Trans.
KUSA-TV (ABC) Denver	2
KCNC-TV (NBC) Denver	4
KMGH-TV (CBS) Denver	6
KRMA-TV (PBS) Denver	12
KDVR-TV (IND) Denver	10
KSPN-TV Aspen, Col.	24

Galaxy 1	
HBO/ CINEMAX PROMO (East)	1
SUPERSTATION WGN Chicago	3
DISNEY CHANNEL (East)	5
SHOWTIME (East)	5
CNN II	7
CNN HEADLINE NEWS	8
ESPN SPORTS	9 (1)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL (East)	10
CBN (Religious)	11
REQUEST TV (PPV)	12 (2)
THE MOVIE CHANNEL (West)	14
SUPERSTATION WWOR (Ind)	15
SHOWTIME (West)	16
SUPERSTATION WTBS (Ind)	18
CINEMAX (East)	21
USA NETWORK (East)	21
HBO (East)	23
DISNEY CHANNEL (West)	24

Satcom 3R	
ESPN/Black Network	7
USA NETWORK (West)	9
HBO (West)	13
LIFETIME	17
CINEMAX (West)	23

Telstar 3	
KTVT-TV Dallas (Ind)	20

(1) ESPN has some occasion audio signal block!
(2) Go to 10 or 14, as soon as the black box appears quickly go back to this channel!
(3) AUDIO TOTALLY BLOCKED!!! Uses commercial Grade VC for cable operators.

Product Reviews and Blues

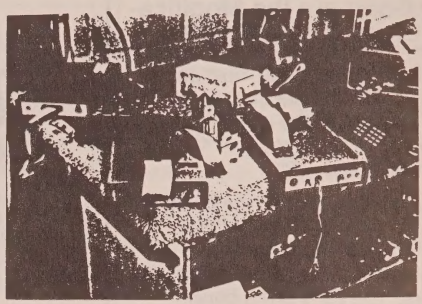
W T S Provides Service Support for The VC II

Walker Technical Services - A company providing service and technical support for VC II's and other satellite equipment.

If you have a problem with your VC II, chances are that Howard Walker and his staff at Walker Technical Services can fix it. And unlike many other repair services, you can call Walker Technical Services, and discuss your VC II problems with a technician before you send it off to be repaired.

Unlike many other repair services, you can call Walker Technical Services and discuss your VC II problems with a technician before you send it off to be repaired.

Howard Walker is a man with a vision, and it wasn't too long after he began repairing VC II's that he saw the need for a long life replacement battery for the decoder. After searching for a suitable replacement, he realized that a self charging NICAD battery was best suited for the hostile environment within the VC II, and after months of favorable tests, he began offering his NICAD replacement battery to the public. Today, over a 1000 of these batteries are keeping VC II's alive.



Since announcing VC II repair services, Walker Technical Services has repaired literally hundreds of VC II's, and has added additional staff members to handle the volume of repairs.

Walker says they have received boards in every state of dis-repair, including some that looked like they had been worked over with a pick ax. Of these, very few have been returned to their owners as unrepairable.

Walker Technical Services offers full hardware and software support to the satellite owner and dealer at reasonable prices. During the day, their technicians are busy repairing boards, so when you call, don't be surprised to get an answering machine, but if you call between 5:00p.m. and 8:00pm EST, you will probably be able to talk with some who can help diagnose your VC II problems and answer your technical questions.

The repair costs for VC II's range from $25.00 for minor problems to $250.00 for 'blitzed' units, with the average charge being about $100.00.

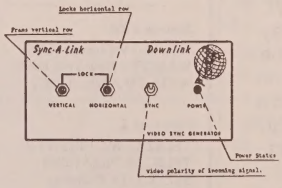
I hope you never have a problem with your VC II, but if you do, you'd do well to call Walker Technical Services for help. Walker Technical Services, 1-703-788-9123.

Sync-A-Link Video Sync Generator

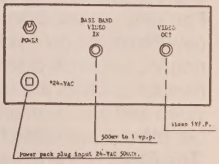
Sync-A-Link - A Universal Video decoder intended as a test and educational tool for those persons seeking technical support on the subject of satellite TV signal scrambling.

Downlink Communications, of Bixby, Oklahoma has perfected the black box. Their Sync-A-Link sync generator has the ability to restore the horizontal and vertical sync lines in all analog scrambled video signals.

The Sync-A-Link Video Sync generator has come a long way since its initial development. It now incorporates low cost computer chips and has the ability to "correct" all current formats of analog video problems.



To operate properly, the Synk-A-Link requires either raw video, unclamped video, or baseband video. Once this source has been passed to the device, the user can manipulate the video output by using front panel controls which include vertical, horizontal, and sync (or frame). The device comes completely assembled in a durable case with a power supply. Included with the unit is an instruction manual, complete with block diagrams, and circuit board diagrams.



The unit is priced at $99.95, and is available only from Downlink Communications, 7500 East 151st, #35, Bixby, OK 74008. The phone number is 1-918-366-3809.

Product Reviews And Blues

Testron Offers FREE BRM Upgrade

018 Battery Replacement Module and 018 Key Extraction Module. A kit of devices allowing the user to read, modify or restore data to all versions of consumer VC's. $1,295.00.

What could be cheaper than FREE? Well, that's what TESTRON is charging to upgrade their older 010 BRM - Battery Replacement Module. Included in the upgrade kit is a new 20 page 018 BRM manual, 018 BRM module, 018 key extraction module, 018 3M Protec test device, 6 replacement capacitors, 3 blank key and ram table sheets and a 3.0 matrix (stock) replacement chip and unlimited telephone technical support.

Why are they giving this upgrade away when most other companies are charging as much as $3,000.00? The answer is simple. As they say in their ads, Testron promises and Testron delivers.

When they first introduced the original BRM, they promised to upgrade the product to all future requirements. Many companies in this business make similar promises, however few remain in business long enough to deliver. Most other companies simply can not cope with the rapidly changing software. And boy, has it been changing!

The nature of the rapid changes hasn't been a problem with Testron, they've been in the software development business for over 21 years, and are used to change.

Back to the BRM module. Installation of the BRM and key extraction module is super simple. All you have to do is follow the easy-to-read instruction manual. The manual is written for the person who has never done this type of work before.

There is no technical language or difficult to understand instructions. Each and every step is over simplified, some users may object to this. It does become boring to read, "Disconnect power cord", "Insert BRM into U30 socket", or "reconnect power cord". However, this detail does eliminate mistakes. While similar type products require the expensive EPROM programmers and complex computer programs, Testron's devices do not; they are totally self contained.

TESTRON PROMISES & TESTRON DELIVERS!

FREE

Why are they giving this upgrade away when most other companies are charging as much as $3,000.00? The answer is simple. As they say in their ads, Testron promises and Testron delivers.

While many of the early 018 key readers are not able to read keys in the 018 B and above boards, this is not a problem with the Testron device, it works in all 018 boards up to and including 018 F.

Many companies rushed into the marketplace with 018 key readers that were not perfect, Testron chose not to release their's until the product was ready and had overcome the problems common to most other key readers.

Included with the kit is a 018 3M(Three Musketeer) Protect test module, which will allow the dealer to turn on a VC II to all consumer services (for testing purposes). Testron's literature states "the BRM is not intended for, and should not be used for cloning", but of course, many users will find the BRM the perfect tool for cloning.

One major feature of the Testron BRM is that keys extracted from an 018 unit can be installed in an 010 VC II. If mass shut offs of the 010 should ever occur, the BRM could bring them back to life.

If you purchased to original BRM from Testron, you should call them today to get your Free upgrade to the 018 BRM. If you don't not already own their 010 BRM then you will need to purchase this 018 BRM for $1,295.00 (which includes the 010 BRM). And as always, Testron promises to provide Free upgrades if they ever become necessary.

For any questions about this product, or to order, you can call Testron at 1-516-358-9414. Testron accepts Visa, Mastercard, and COD orders.

The Testron BRM is a battery replacement tool designed for the legal extraction of VC II keys for legitimate service & repair purposes. It is not intended for illegal use in cloning or other activities. This publication does not condone nor endorse the use of any product in an illegal manner.

Notes From the Satellite Underground

For Sale: 10,000 Brain Dead VC II modules?

We've heard that an overseas source is trying to move 10,000 brain dead VC II modules. Our source tells us the individual trying to sell these units claims that he got them directly from M/A-Com's assembly line in Puerto Rico.

As the story goes, these modules did not pass quality control, and were sent to the scrap room to be destroyed. (Apparently it is cheaper to destroy rejected VC II modules than to repair them due to problems of epoxy removal.)

The parties responsible for destroying the rejected modules, sold the modules to scrap dealers rather than destroying them. Now these VC II's are back on the market.

There has been considerable interest in purchasing the modules for various reasons, especially by those people who service and repair VC II's. However, no one party has been willing to purchase the entire lot, yet.

The Wizard Fixer

Now that the public is discovering that some chips have built in protection devices that render the chips useless without proper passwords, products are beginning to appear to bypass the protection devices.

One of these products, The Wizard Fixer, is advertised in this month's issue of The Blank Box Newsletter. The product supposedly allows anyone who has a Wizard copy (and there are a lot of them out there), to calculate the password on Wizard Chips.

It will be interesting to see whether people will spend th $5000.00 asked for the fix, or just upgrade to some other type of chip.

Over 1 Million Chips?

Estimates from within GI's assembly plant (actually a M/A-Com plant located in Puerto Rico) place the number of VC II's manufactured at about 1.2 million. Industry analysts estimate that about 80% of these boxes are using modification chips. Assuming that some of these chips have been replaced one or more times, it is easy to guess that over 1 million chips have been sold.

With an average price of $300.00 per chip, the total amount of money spent purchasing these chips is in the 300 million dollar range. That's a lot of money! And when you consider that 75% of the chips are sold by about 20 different companies, you get a sense that, thanks to GI, there are quite a few new millionaires in the satellite business. These numbers should offer proof to the programmers and the FCC that scrambling just isn't working. If consumers are willing to spend $500 million for VC II's, and another $300 million for chips, something must be wrong in the marketplace. None of that $800 million went to programmers or to improve satellite technology.

Computer Virus' Infect VC II's

Many software developers have seen their software master pieces illegally copied by others and sold without receiving any reimbursement for their effort. Now the software developers have found a way that might stop a lot of people from copying their work. By embedding what is know as a "computer virus" into the software, a developer can cause his software to infect and eventually destroy any computer that uses unauthorized copies of the software.

The intent of the computer virus is to encourage consumers to purchase software only from the authorized dealers for the product. This technology was originally developed for computer software sold on easily copied computer diskettes, but it has now found its way into the VC II underground. Chip protection schemes have been used since the early Chicken Coop chips, but most of these methods were not too successful in preventing massive chip duplication as they were easily defeated. Lately, however, things have changed.

One of the most recent examples of attempts to protect chips is in the Wizard chip. The original developers of this chip placed a hidden software routine that, at certain intervals, requests the user to enter his user ID. If the user does not know his ID (and he won't if he didn't get one when he purchased the chip), the chip will go down.

The most recent example of protection schemes is used with the Armadillo chip from V.C. Hacker. This chip incorporates the latest computer virus, that gives the chip the ability to detect and destroy unauthorized copies of the chip.

One of the most successful protection formats on the market today is used by Testron on their Protec devices. Each of these devices in on its own circuit board the size of domino, and it can't be copied without duplicating the circuit board. Testron's protection device has worked, evidenced by the fact that there are no one-off copies off the highly popular Protec device on the market.

Parting Shots

New Satellite Network Airs

Northwest Associates of Apple River, Illinois, launched a new network for satellite viewers Tuesday, April 26, on Westar 5, channel 24.

The new network promises to offer news, entertainment, and shopping opportunities for the satellite viewer. The new network is planning to offer a wide range of satellite consumer oriented features, including a 60 Minute format news program.

If you would like to find out more about the new network, you may contact Clark Story at 1-815-594-2400.

VC II Bulletin Boards Grow

First it was the Cathouse Bulletin Board offering a VC II forum for computer owners using modems to communicate. Then the Fun House appeared with a another electronic bulletin board with an emphasis of VC II oriented information. Now, there are many more, including some set up by advertisers who sell and support various VC II oriented software.

A current list of computer Bulletin Boards with a wide variety of interest can be found in the latest issue of Computer Shopper. They list hundred of BBS's by area code.

Just in case your are wondering, The Cathouse can be reached by computer at 1-513-528-0707. The Fun House can be reached at 1-212-828-7658.

Scramble Facts Hot Line Heats Up

The weekly reports aired on the Scramble Hot Line have recently ruffled a few feathers in the satellite underground.

Scramble Facts broke the Wizard copy protection story, provided an expose on Chip Rip Offs, and offered technical tips to restore audio on 'downed' VC II's.

These and other subjects have a few in the satellite underground furious either because their products were mentioned, or because their products weren't.

Scramble Facts is updated weekly, on Fridays at 5:00 EST, and the recorded message can be heard by calling 1-718-343-0130.

DES Algorithm Cracked?

We have spoken to a usually reliable source that has reported he has seen evidence that the Algorithm that GI uses to generate seed keys for each individual VC II has been broken. If the Algorithm has been broken, it would be possible to generate the seed keys using the ID # of the unit and the original mathematical formula .

Our source says he provided his unit ID #, and was given back his seed keys (after about 30 minutes), as proof that the formual did work.

This is an intriguing concept, but it's hard to believe that if a non-random algorithm was being used, that it wouldn't be changed fairly often.

Blank Box Fastest Growing

Over the past few months, The Blank Box Newsletter has been become the satellite industry's most read trade publication. The newsletter also contains, on the average, more pages than any other trade publication in the satellite industry.

That clearly shows, that regardless of what the SBCA says, people are interested in the activities of the satellite underground.

We appreciate the support of all our subscribers and advertisers.

Thanks.

Multiple Choice

Please Identify the Above Drawing:

A. General Instrument's Corporate Image.
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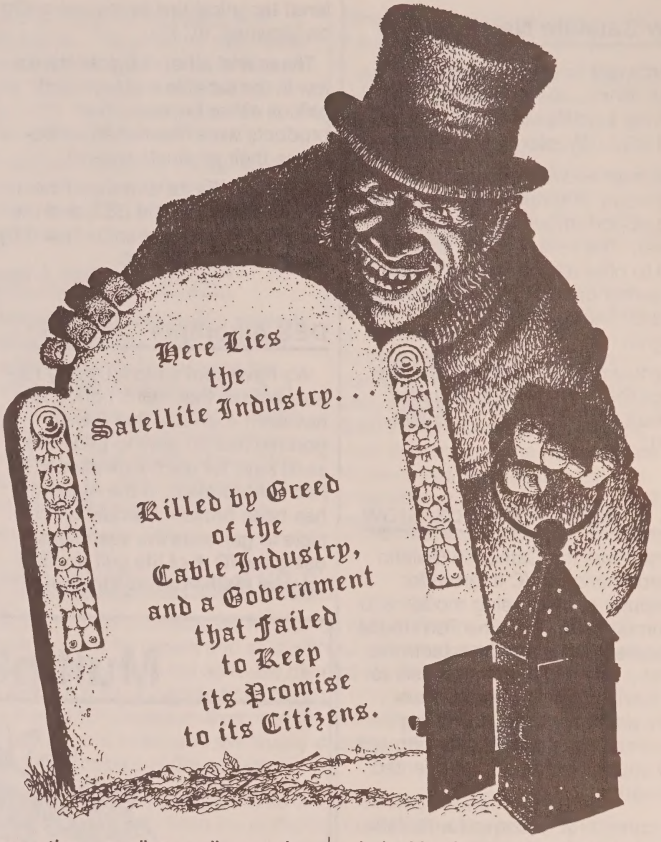
Closing Thoughts

I Love My Country, But Fear My Government.

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describeing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

4th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



Although the U.S. Constitution was wriiten to protect citizens from unlawful search and seizures, it appears that the cable industry has found it doesn't have to abide by the laws of this country.

Using the grounds of "Ongoing Investigation", several satellite dealers have been raided by FBI agents who have seized all the property in the establishment. In cases so far, no criminal charges have been filed, nor has the seized property been returned. But in all cases, the company raided, left with no assets, has been forced out of business, as a direct result of the raid.

The sad truth in America today, is that a company can be forced out of business by a competitor who convinces the FBI that the competitor is doing something illegal (whether he is or not). Although the U.S. Constitution pledges that citizens charged with crimes will be believed innocent until proven guilty, apparently those *not* charged with crimes have no rights.

Consider the fearful implications of the FBI's "Ongoing Investigation" raids. They do not have to file criminal charges, they do not have to return seized property for at least seven years, and the victim of the raid must sue to get his property back, *even if he has done nothing wrong.*

Using the tactics of "Ongoing Investigation" seizures, a politician or corporation can silence all opposition and competitors, by having the FBI walk in and take their assets. It is conceivable that every satellite dealer in the United States could have all his assets seized by the FBI, based on investigations started by the SBCA and local cable companies.

At the same time, drug pushers, mass murderers, terrorists, baby killers, kidnappers, bank robbers and corrupt politicians laugh at a criminal justice system that gives criminals more rights than those not charged with crimes.

The frustrating thing about this entire situation is that there is little we can do about it. Our government ignores us and our constitutional rights (unless we have the money and the time to fight them in court).

How many more rights will we give up?

Time is running out. For the Satellite dealer, the satellite industry, and the freedoms we have long enjoyed in this country.

"Congress Shall Make NO Law Abridging the Freedom of the Press..."

Classified Ads

Important Notice: Some products mentioned, reviewed or advertised in this publication may not be legal to own or operate in all areas that this newsletter is distributed. It is up to the buyer and seller to determine the legality of any sale. Buyers are advised to exercise extreme caution when doing business with any company requiring payment in cash. We strongly urge consumers to use credit cards for mail order purchases whenever possible, as recovery of these funds is possible in the event of problems. We ask that consumers report any problems with our advertisers to us, so we may make attempts to resolve the matter. The Publisher does not endorse, encourage or condone the purchase or use of products determined by law to be illegal.

The Technician's Exchange - A computer bulletin board system featuring satellite and cable TV. Runs on Commodore 64. Supports X Modem file, transfer from computer. 703-387-1780. Requires $25.00 donation.

The Cat House computer Bulletin Board for VC II owners. 1200/2400 baud 1-513-528-0707. 1200/2400/9600 baud 1-513-528-0505.

BULLETIN BOARD - for VC enthusiasts, chip files, down loadable 1200-N81, on a ring back system 1-402-223-2999

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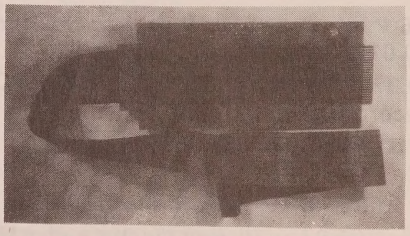

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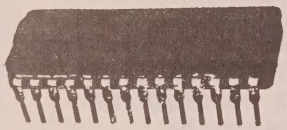

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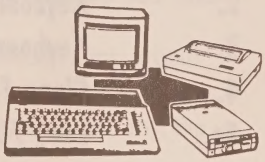

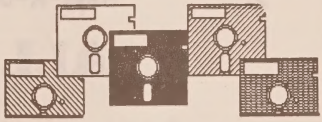

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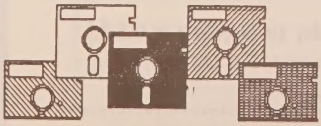

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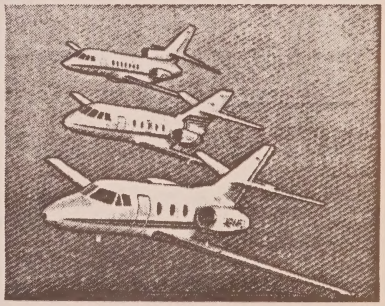

"Also Available"

Blank Eprom Chips (27-128)

1-20 .....$7.25 each

20 or more.....$6.50 each

All this is available through:

J.E.T. Electronics

Orders Only 1-703-382-4949

Orders will be taken Mon thru Friday 8:00a.m. till 12:00 p.m. We ship C.O.D. or next day air (anywhere in U.S.A.)

Products for test purposes only. Not intended for illegal use.

VC II Repair Seminar

Tired of having to send your VC II's off for repair? Want to become a part of the fastest growing (and most profitable) segment of the satellite service and repair business? Want to learn about the hidden secrets of the VC II? **Then you won't want to miss out on the VC II Technologies VC II Repair Seminar!**

A two day, hands-on seminar on the servicing and repair of the VC II, developed by the engineers who broke the VC II and put together the Parasite decoder.

At the VC II seminar you will:

* Cover trouble shooting the VC II - from simply basics to indepth theory of operation.
* Be provided with schematics & trouble shooting guide covering power supply, 70 Mhz board, front panel, & computer module.
* Become familiar with the operation and use of electronic test equipment.
* Be exposed to the latest hardware and software 'fixes' for the VC II.
* Listen to the experts who designed the Parasite decoder who will be happy to answer your questions about the VC II.
* Learn how to restore Brain Dead VC II's, install batteries, remove epoxy (for servicing), install test chips and diagnose problems.

At this VC II seminar, you will be supplied with the following tools for your personal use after the seminar:

1. Complete Analog and Digital Schematics for the VC II.
2. Trouble Shooting Guides.
3. Video Tape on the repair and servicing of the VC II.
4. Electronic Test Equipment.
5. Diagnostic & Repair Software.
6. Complete list of replacement parts.

This is the VC II Seminar that everyone will be talking about! **Don't Miss it!** Limited Enrollment. Cost of Seminar $500.00. (Note: Do not send money at this time!)

Write or Call for Complete Information Packet!!!

VC II Technologies - 1-501-624-1914

Yes, I am interested in finding out more about VC II Technologies VC II Repair Seminar.

Company Name (if Available).....
Name: .....
Address:.....
City:..... State: ..... Zip:.....
Comments:.....
.....
.....

Mail to: **VC II Technologies, Inc., 411 Winans Ave., Hot Springs, Ar 71901.** 1-501-624-1914

SOFTWARE FOR SERIOUS STUDY & TESTING THE OPERATION OF THE VC II $1995.00

Includes:

1.....The Very Latest in Version 3.0 Software for IRD's
2 .....Current field tested run technologies for 018x boards allows you to clone your own blue masters to any blue or purple label VC II. Contains the latest technology and works with all IRD's currently in the marketplace.
2 .....Ram loader files for the above technologies to load U-20
3.....010X run technologies, 1 for IRD's
1.....Cloning chip for 010X boxes
1.....010X key reader chip
1 .....Generic Keys-R-Us type chip (A $450.00 value)
2.....Diagnostic chips 1-010X 1-018X
1.....Disk of U-30 Commented Disassemblies
1.....Disk of older technologies (not guaranteed to run) both 010X and 018X for educational and experimental purposes, includes diagnostic files, U30 originals and more!
1..... Disk SUPER TOOLS includes disassembler for TMS7XXX and other utilities

All above software supplied on PC compatible disks which include documentation and instruction files.

Current technology is running and gets PPV. If the above products prove defective you will receive free upgrades for 1 year at no charge! Nominal charge for upgrades after 1 year. Modem support available at 300 or 1200 BAUD.

It's all yours for only $1995.00 (You can get a lot less elsewhere for $2500.00)

Archive 010x Keys And Install Nicad Battery $50.00
Archive 018x Keys And Install Nicad Battery $250.00
Eproms Made Form Your Files .....$15.00 EACH (10 lot)
Other Software, Services And 018x Keypullers Available . . . Call For Information

WE HAVE THE LATEST (ORIGINAL) KEYBOARD WIZARD! TECHNOLOGY

WE BUY BOARDS

Items Shipped Immediately With Cashiers Check, Money Order Or COD, Personal Checks Allow 10 Days To Clear. Add $12.00 For Ups Blue Shipping. Add $17.00 For Ups Next Day Air. Add $3.75 For COD.

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24 hours a day, 7 days a week

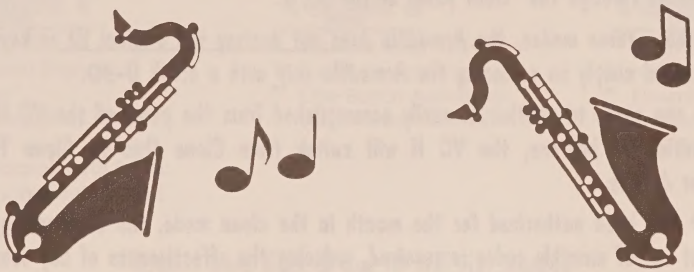
V.C. BYTES

P.O. BOX 1318
ANTHONY, FL 32617-1318

These products sold only for educational purposes and testing of VCII and may be illegal in the U.S.A.

From The Originators of The Blue Key Technology

The Blues Brothers



Key-Pullers for 018 boxes now available.

Also complete wizard package.

Canada

1-416-279-4483 (answering service)
1-416-847-5152 (office)

New: The Blues Brothers Bulletin Board!

6:00 pm - 9:00 am EST Mon - Fri
24 Hours weekends
1-416-847-5153

For the latest in industry news!

V.C Hacker's Armadillo Chip - An Overview

The Armadillo chip from V.C. Hacker is the latest release of a long line of super chips that have proven beyond doubt that the VC II will remain broken for a long time to come. This latest chip incorporates three different methods of breaking the VideoCipher, thus greatly reducing the risk that this particular chip could ever be turned off, short of a total recall of all VideoCiphers by GI (and that is unlikely).

The three complete and separate modes in the Armadillo chip are:

1. V3.0 Clone which includes an ID, Keys and monthly codes.
2. A Backup, Hidden Clone, with another ID, set of keys and monthly codes (usually not authorized until needed).
3. A Keyless "Wizard Plus" mode that can get all channels, including Telstar, by entering the monthly codes through the front panel of the VC II.

In addition to these three modes, the Armadillo does not destroy the original ID or keys in the VC II, and those can be used simply be replacing the Armadillo chip with a stock U-30.

Switching from one mode to another is easily accomplished from the panel of the VC II. By pressing the right combination of buttons, the VC II will switch from Clone One to Clone Two or Wizard, whichever the user desires.

Once the unit has been authorized for the month in the clone mode, the software ignores all other hits until the next set of monthly codes is received, reducing the effectiveness of any counter measures.

The main advantage of the Armadillo chip is that if somehow one of the technologies should go down, the user can toggle into another mode, and his VC II will remain up. This should be especially appealing to dealers who have hundreds of VC II's in the field, and are worried by massive turn-offs due to ECM. By using Armadillo chips, they can get their customers back up with the press of a button.

Priced at $295.00, the chip is a bargain. It's like getting three chips for the price of one. Two separate clones, and the latest in Wizard Technology. As for support, V.C. Hacker will be providing his customary services with additional upgrades expected in the future.

To protect their substantial investment in this technology, V.C. Hacker is using a state-of-the-art protection scheme, which uses a computer virus to infect unauthorized copies of the chip. This will prevent unscrupulous dealers from copying this chip and selling it to unwary consumers. If a copy of the chip is used, it will infect the VC II with a software virus that will disable the unit.

Dealer packages are available that will allow the local dealer to customize the clone numbers in his Armadillo for his customers. Authorized dealers will have their own copy protection schemes to protect their investment.

This new technology is available today from:

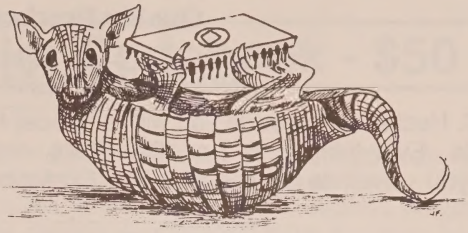
V.C. Hacker - 501-321-2091

and

Computer Tech Services - 904-563-1114

New Super Chip from V.C. Hacker

ARMADILLO CHIP



"Armor - Plated"

A Single Chip with Three Tiers of Security!

V.C. Hackers
Armadillo Chip

Toggle 1

* V 3.0 Clone
* Hidden Encrypted Keys
* Unscrambles All Signals
* Unscramble All PPV's
* All Subscriptions Paid

Toggle 2

* "Spare" Clone Number
* Use in Emergency
* One Button Authorizes Spare When Needed.

Toggle 3

* Wizard Plus
* Keyless Technology
* Unscrambles Everything (including PPV's)
* Gets Telstar

Original Seed Keys & Box ID Will Not Change

Use any of the three modes any time you want. "Spare" Clone (toggle option 2) is not authorized, unless something happens to clone numbers in "toggle 1". Then the "spare" clone in "toggle 2" will be turned on!

You will not have to worry about going off and being without your VC II. Just switch to "Spare" clone or switch to Wizard Plus, all the touch of a button!

The Wizard Plus in "toggle 3" is automatically updated for working key codes and has never been turned off. Of course, you can use the Wizard Plus anytime you want.

Single Chip Fix

$295.00
Overnight delivery available!

Free Socket Installation!

V.C. HACKER

1-501-525-2114
1-501-321-2091

VISA MasterCard COD

WARNING!! WARNING!! WARNING!!

Single Chips are copy protected with a state of the art "computer virus". You will destroy your VC II if you use an unauthorized copy of this chip!!.

V. C. Hacker

Quality Products & Services

NO COMPUTER? - NO PROBLEM

V.C. Hacker can provide you with a Special Package for testing all types of VideoCipher units - Everything to fix 1 or 1000 VCII's - Including IRD units. We will make your chips for you - Overnite Service. Blue Key Extraction available from your own VCII board.

BLUE KEY EXTRACTION SERVICE

Just send us the board from your Master unit and we will extract the keys and make Cloning chips and 4 musketeer chips for you and return it overnite delivery, no records are kept. Our Version 3.0 cloning software requires **ONLY ONE PAID SERVICE** on the Master VCII unit. *E-100 KEY EXTRACTORS FOR SALE AT BEST PRICE ANYWHERE.*

FREE CLONING MANUAL

VideoCipher technology can be pretty confusing, especially if you ar just getting started. Let us take some of the mystery out of it. Call today and receive an informative simplified manual explaining cloning technology and how it works.

VIDEOCIPHER BOARD MODIFICATION

- Descrambles all channels for testing - We program the board for you
- TELSTAR channels available
- Works in new IRD units - Houston Trakker, EchoSphere, Uniden and Others
- Overnite service for individuals and Dealers

VIDEOCIPHER REPAIR

- No minimum charge - Free estimate - You've got nothing to lose
- We can fix what the others can't
- Battery replacement and Custom Chip replacement
- Key Archival on diskette,chips and paper

CHIPS - INSTALL YOURSELF

- Blue IRD chips work in new blue units
- OMNI magic chips - Original four musketeer
- CloneWriter chips to repair "Brain-Dead" boards
- Keys-R-Us repair and utility chip - No computer needed
- Keyless "Wizard" chips

HACKER'S SOFTWARE & TOOLS

- ULTRA PLUS - No-Key fix for 2000's or 2100's
- BLUE LOAD - Version 3.0 for cloning IRD's and 2100's
- V.C. Hacker's TOOLBOX Vol. 1 and Vol. 2
- POWER TOOLS - Utilities for programmers
- ASSEMBLERS CODEBOOK - Listings for U-7 and U-30

Some of these products may be illegal in certain areas. All materials provided for testing and educational purposes only. Ask about disclaimer.

501-525-2114 Orders Only

501-321-2091 Information Line

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TMS 7xxx Assembler Codebook - $50

Over 300 pages of code written for a *Consumer Video Descrambling Device.* Reportedly very similiar to the original disassembled code for the VC2000 including separate lists for U30 andU7. Shows addresses for authorization routines, jumper tables, screen displays, program locks, monthly tables & strings, command lines, keyboard commands, serial # routine for U7 to U20. Even has the original debugging comments. Comes on 2 diskettes ready to be printed out. Interesting and very useful information. U7 list is new. Only $50.

Keys-R-Us Chip - $400

V.C. Hacker's own version of this famous key extraction chip allows you to save the seed keys for any VC2000 unit without a computer or other equipment. Everthing is done with the controls right on the front of the VCll. The Keys-R-Us chip lets you put the keys back into any VCll unit, again without computers or other equipment. Many dealers quickly pay for this chip by charging a small fee to read the keys for their customers. All VCll owners must save their keys in case of a turn-off or battery failure. If the worst happens you will be protected with a Keys-R-Us chip. Beware of cheaper versions of this type of chip. Many of them just flat don't work. Buy yours from V.C. Hacker or the Mexican chip. Both will do the job.

We apologize if you have had trouble getting through on our phone lines. We want to give each customer as much help as we can. Please keep trying if you find our lines busy. We are busy with other customers.

Talk to us before you buy.
Thanks, We appreciate your business!

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Call 1-501-321-2091 Information Line
V.C. Hacker
Hot Springs, Ark.

VISA MasterCard COD

V.C. Hacker's TOOLBOX Vol. 1 - $75

Everything for the VC2000

A 2-disk set of chip files, diagnostic programs and tools for the cloning process. All are IBM DOS or IBM clone compatible. These files are sold for educational and experimental purposes. The package comes with instructions for the cloning process. 26 files and four diagnostic programs.Updates available for $15. Examples below

OMNI1 - Unscrambles everything.
OMNI2 - Better for Ver 3.
WRITEU7 - Cloning file.
MASTER - Single chip clonwreiter.
START3 - Used with cloning.
BREAKER- 3mt type chip.
RABWRITR - Old clone chip.

OMNI3 -New for IRD units.
SESAME -New keymaster.
SCAMCO2 - Still works.
XactChip - Research copy.
XACTV20 - Version 2.0.
IDS - Old version.
TRACROLL - Early PPV.

READU7 - View seed keys in U7.
WRITEU20 - Cloning file.
IDSV1 - Newer version.
RMWRTR24 - Installs 2.4RAM inU20.
XACTV30 - Version 3.0.
IDSV1 - Newer version of IDS
TWIN - Older clonewriter.

OMNI MAGIC CHIPS - $125

New OMNI-3 for IRD units

V.C. Hacker's famous OMNI chips are available for $125 each or $100 each if you buy three or more. These chips will unscramble all channels in a VC2000 with at least one paid subscription. OMNI chips have been around a long time and they still work better than the rest. NEW OMNI-3 now available for IRD units with Serial #'s 0100 to 0106. The omni files have been enhanced to work in the early IRD units.

V.C.'s POWER TOOLS -$50

Special tools for the experienced programmer. They all work with IBM DOS or DOS compatible computers. Most are based on Unix programs. If you are not familiar with Unix a good book on the subject will help.
The disassembler has a minimum number of features, but is easy to use. The input file should be 16K.

CHKSUM - Generates checksum of binary file.
BDIFF - Binary difference program.
CAT - Text concantenation program. Refer to Unix.
TAIL - SAme as Head, but the other end.
STR7 - Generates Hex strings from ascii inputs.

DI - TMS7xxx disassembler Easy to use.
DUMP - Text dump of a 16K file. Hex & Ascii.
HEAD - Displays n lines of a text file.
LIST - Text display utility. Damn good program.
GREP - Standard text search program.

Mon - Saturday
Call 501-525-2114 Orders Only
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Hot Springs, Ark.

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V.C. Hacker's TOOLBOX - Volume 3

018X Chip Files and Software for Blue Boards

* BlueLoad - Clone Writer Chip File for 018X
* BlueRun - Run Chip for 018X
* Keyboard Wizard - Older Version 1.0 , no Telstar but works on PPV and everything else
* U7 Writer - Experimental Writer Chip that claims to load Blue Seed Keys into U7 (018X)
* U7 Run - Use with U7 Writer (Experimental)
* Setup 99 - One Step Clone Writer for 018X
* 2000 Writer - Special chip file that converts a 2000 board into a 2100
* Repair U7 - Restores & Clears U-20 & U7 of software Glitches. Cures Lots of Problems. Great Chip!

Complete Package - $150.00

All Chip Files are in MS-DOS, IBM compatible format for educational and experimental purposes. May be illegal to use in certain areas.

V.C. Hacker

501-525-2114

501-321-2091

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All The Software You Need For The VC II

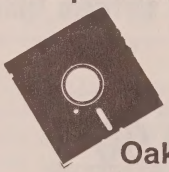
The VC-Tech Software Package Includes:

1) 1 master for the 2100 A1081, IRD's, 2000 units (it will not have to be updated monthly)
2) 1 run chip for the 2100, A0181, IRD's, 2000 units
3) 1 Generic Keys-R-Us repair chip for address numbers 0100-0106 units.
4) 1 4mt for address numbers 0100-0106 and IRDs
5) 1 4mt for address number 0100-0106 and IRD's that have been cloned.
6) 1 IBM compatible disk with the software for all the chips
7) 1 schematic for the VC II, Manual for Keys-R-Us repair chip, installation manual, epoxy remover, helpful hints, trouble shooting.
8) Many Other Useful Chips Also Included

100% satisfaction guarantee.

All chips and software are good. If the products should ever prove defective, we will send you free software to upgrade. Some persons paid $10,000 or more for this. You can have it all for a limited time only for $500.00.

If you do not have an EPROM programmer, we will make you duplicates of the chips for $20.00 each. Minimum of five chips at a time.



VC-Tech

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Oakville, Ontario Canada L6J395
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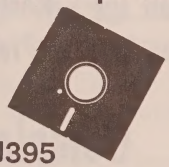
24 hours a day, 7 days a week



All Orders Shipped COD.

For fastest service when you call, tell the operator you would like us to ship it to you, or if you would like more information, leave you name and phone # and the best time to call you back.

This product sold only for testing VC II, it may be illegal in the U.S.A.

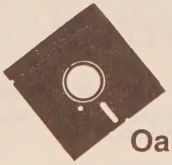
All The Software You Need for the VC-II

"To put you in total control of the VC II Industry" from the unit 2000-2100 A0181 and higher plus IRD's. Our A0181 and Higher is not a clone and will not alter or change your original address numbers, no ID # is required, no subscriptions to make it work, you get the Pay-Per-Views, too, and it will update each month plus it will work in the 2000, ID # 0100-0103 units and you still can use parental lockouts on all 2000-2100 units.

We will send you 5 chips plus 1 disk for IBM & compatibles with all the software you need to make any VC II work.

1) 1 master for the 2100 A1081, IRD's, 2000 units (it will not have to be updated monthly) & this chip brings C4 units A5 specs.
2) 1 run chip for the 2100, A0181, IRD's, 2000 units (works in all models).
3) 1 Generic Keys-R-Us repair chip for address numbers 0100-0106 units.
4) 1 4mt for address numbers 0100-0106 and IRDs
5) 1 4mt for address number 0100-0106 and IRD's that have been cloned.
6) 1 IBM compatible disk with the software for all the chips
7) 1 schematic for the VC II, Manual for Keys-R-Us repair chip, installation manual, epoxy remover, helpful hints, trouble shooting.
8) Many Other Useful Chips Also Included

Yes, We Do Repair Work on the VC II!



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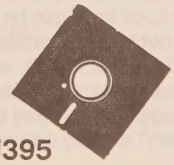

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As Seen in The Pirate Video III!

DOOMSDAY SUPER LIZARD!

*** NEW AND IM- PROVED! ***

The Secure One

*** NEW AND IM- PROVED! ***

The VC Chameleon Chip!

The SECURE ONE chip updates the best features of Wizard Technology with the speed and all the other advantageous of Clone technology producing the ultimate in Doomsday combo chips!

The Secure One Chip is a VC CHAMELEON chip that works like a Wizard but it needs no monthly update! It Works As A Keyless System So You Aren't Required to Continually Enter Key Codes!

The two tier security system keeps the chip going through all foreseeable counter measures. If one technology is knocked out, you can use the front panel of the VCII to toggle in another technology that is already onboard the Secure One Chip!

You may wish to use the VC CHAMELEON as a keyless system only. This System allows you to enter up to 8 working keys. The VC CHAMELEON will automatically search to find the appropriate working key.

THE VC CHAMELEON DOES NOT DESTROY THE ORIGINAL UNIT I.D.

1. Displays 'View' and 'Next Program' without VC remote
2. Can be either clone or keyless system.
3. Star Lock keys can be entered for cable-only mode.
4. Will not take bad authorizations from data stream.
5. Displays real unit ID which is on back of cage.
6. Clone keys are individually encrypted in each box.
7. Includes working key builder program.
8. Doesn't destroy original unit keys! Box can be restored to original condition.

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

(205) 264-0264

Note: This system is offered for educational purposes only and is not intended to be used in the United States. Such usage may be a violation of U.S.A. laws.

VIDEOCIPHER BOARD SERVICE and MODIFICATIONS by Professional Technicians

We SPECIALIZE in the following VC II services:

1. Socketing U-30 and Archiving your Unique Individual Keys to reinitialize your unit in case of Battery failure. Socketed units can be used to 'Test' Chips which are programmed to Descramble all Channels. (Sorry - we do not sell chips.)

2. Replacing old inferior battery with new longlife Lithium type. Original battery life is only 2 Years! GI charges $100.00 to replace it! Our price is only $ 49.95.

3. Servicing all other kinds of VideoCipher problems. Let our engineer staffed Technical Department solve all of your VC II problems at reasonable prices.

All Repairs Shipped UPS. FED-X or next day Air on request. All repairs GUARANTEED.

Same day service available on socketing and battery replacement.

DEALER QUANTITY DISCOUNTS Available

Pre-socketed VideoCipher II with original GI chip installed - **$ 459.00**

GRAYCO COMMUNICATIONS INC.

448 South Lawrence Street
Phone (205) 264-0264

Montgomery, Al 36104
FAX (205) 264-7190

OVER 38 YEARS IN THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK, MONEY ORDER

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DEALER ASSOCIATION UNITY CONFERENCE

Were your members and your Association sold out by SBCA when it became a programmers' organization? Did SPACE take care of your needs or just take your money? Do you want to continue lining the pockets of SBCA and STTI? Have you ever had a zoning problem that cost a member a sale? Do you feel your members should be paid for service calls on equipment still under warranty? Are you frustrated with the absence of a single voice to represent satellite dealers and dealer associations?

Possible solutions to the above questions, as well as answers to many other problems you as satellite dealers and dealer associations face daily, will be presented and discussed at the First Satellite Dealer Assocation Unity Conference held at the Riverfront Hilton in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 13, 14 and 15, 1988. We are going to organize an umbrella organization or alliance whereby all associations, state, regional or national, can maintain their own identity, set and accomplish their own goals with the help, if needed, of all other associations, and most important, present a unified front to the government, the manufacturers and distributors, and the programmers. Our common enemy, the large M.S.O.s, have not had to "divide and conquer" our industry - it has never been united. **NOW IS THE TIME FOR UNITY!**

United we can, through the strength of sheer numbers, solve problems with suppliers; present a strong, unified front to Congress, the FCC, and the FTC; and develop a stronger position for negotiation with programmers for bulk wholesale distribution of programming.

Our plans are to invite numerous distributors and manufacturers to each sponsor an association (two delegates) by providing hotel accommodations and a $20/day meal allowance. Each association will provide transportation to and from the conference for its delegates.

We urge you to appoint two delegates and send them to the conference so your association will be represented.

Please contact Tom Burke at (501) 982-8229 or Paul Odell at (214) 563-1253 to make reservations for your delegates no later than Sunday, May 8, 1988.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Little Rock!

STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY!

Tom Burke
Paul Odell

Tired of Waiting for the Post Office to deliver your issue of The Blank Box Newsletter?

Recent changes in the way the United States Post Offices operates has caused most types of bulk rate mail delivery to suffer. Mail that previously took 7 to 10 days now generally takes 14 to 21 days to reach the addressee (and sometimes it doesn't ever reach them).

We mail the newsletter the first of each month, but many of our subscribers do not receive it until the 21st or later (if at all). If you're tired of waiting, there is a solution. We can mail your newsletter to you in a plain envelope, first class mail. This means you will receive your newsletter 3 to 5 days after it is printed. First class mail is faster, but it is also more expensive. At the current first class rate, it costs over $1.00 to mail each issue, and as the newsletter grows and gets heavier, the cost will continue to climb.

Because we have been receiving so many complaints about slow mail delivery, we are now offering a first class upgrade to all our current subscribers. The cost of this upgrade is $12.50 per year. For the cost of the upgrade, you will receive all future issues of the newsletter in a unmarked envelope, first class mail, for the remainder of your subscription term.

If you are tired of waiting for the Post Office to Deliver Upgrade to First Class. Only $12.50.

You can upgrade your Blank Box Newsletter subscription to first class by using your Visa/Master card, and calling 1-501-321-1845. You may also send a check or money order for $12.50 to: Blank Box Newsletter, 100 Bridge St. #27, Hot Springs, AR 71901.

If you Don't Need First Class, Don't Worry.

Even though the Post Office has increased bulk rate mail charges by 25%, we have decided not to increase our basic subscription rate. The basic subscription rate for the Blank Box Newsletter is still just $24.95 a year. And as always, we appreciate the support of all our readers and contributors.

Note: Due to changes in Postal Regulations, all non U.S. subscribers will receive their newsletters in sealed envelopes. Effective immediately, all foreign subscriptions will cost $37.50 in U.S. funds.

Resort Publishing

100 Bridge St., #27
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WIZARD FIXER

As you know there is a hidden program in all 'KEY BOARD WIZARD'' type devices that requires you to enter a security in month 25 or they will SHUT OFF and can't be turned on again. Some have several security programs.

WE KEEP ALL "KEY BOARD WIZARD" TYPE UNITS RUNNING.

Just give us the ID number - nothing else. We'll give you the security codes to keep 'em running after month 25. We know how to keep 'em going. And will guarantee to keep 'em going for 12 months.

Our enrollment fee is $5,000°° PLUS $475°° per unit BEFORE month 25.
Our enrollment fee is $10,000°° PLUS $900°° per unit AFTER month 25.

Call for instructions how to bank wire funds. No other form of payment accepted.

AS MENTIONED ON SCRAMBLE FACTS

Ask for Bubba, Luigi or Omar

WIZARD FIXER

916-361-7267

P.O. Box 7801
Citrus Heights, CA 95611

Volume III Now Ready!

Latest Breakthru's!... Improved Video Quality!

Breaking the VC II - A Pirate's View Volume III

"A Video Documentary Unlike Anything You've Ever Seen"

Volume III of the Pirate Video concentrates on the very latest breakthru's on the current release of the Videocypher. You will see complete, live uneditied footage of the latest installation of the single chip fix for the blue labels. Watch the pirates use the latest techniques to remove epoxy, install chips...see how easy it really is. Volume III also takes a look at the **Wizard**, **Doomsday** and **Parasite** technology.

This Video tape shows it all!

The Pirate Video – Volume Three Includes:

- The **Incredible Wizard Technology** for the 018, IRD's and the 2000
- 018 Key Extraction Boards (**Omnitec & Parasite**), which is the best?
- **The Doomsday Chip** - Fact or Fiction?
- **Hink's Worm** - the easy way to break TMS7000 Code
- **Reviving Brain Dead Boards** the easy way
- Controversy at the Las Vegas STTI Show
- Late Breaking Underground News

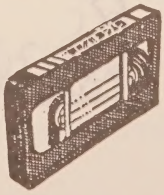
If you want to see the very latest advances in the technologyfromf the satellite underground, then you will want this video documentary. The Pirate Video, Volume III, has improved video and audio quality, and gives you an exclusive look at the very latest video piracy activity. **The Pirate Video, Volume I** is sold out, and Volume II is almost gone. If you want a rush copy of Volume III, order today, while they are still available!

Ask for The Pirate Video $30.00 (VHS Only)

1-501-321-1845

MasterCard
VISA
COD

Resort Publishing Company
100 Bridge St. #27
Hot Springs, Ar 71901



The purpose of this video tape is to document events and products from the satellite underground. This documentary tape is not intended to be used to promote illegal products or activities. This product sold under protection of the U.S. Constitution.

You've heard about it, read about it, & seen it on Yellow Rain.

Now you can finally get your hands on it.

The Amazing Keyboard Wizard!!

This is the breakthrough product that everyone is talking about. Works in any VC II. Not A clone! Uses Bullet Proof Technology. This is the one!

Important Notice: Beware of Imitations!! We are the only source for true Wizard Technology. We are aware that other companies are selling various chips under the wizard name. Don't be fooled by these low quality imitations (most are clones). If you want the real Wizard, call us.

There is only one authorized source for Wizard Technology.

The Keyboard Wizard.
1-809-946-4617

RJL Marketing

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New from the Wizard

New Wizard "Super Plus"!

One Chip Does All Version Of The "Cipher", No Monthly Updates Needed From G/i, Never Gets Turned Off, Even Works In "brain Dead Boards".

How Simple Can You Can Get?

It's This Easy to Install a Wizard Chip in Your Unit:

Step 1. Put in Socket at U30 Position
Step 2. Place our Wizard Chip in Socket
Step 3. Plug in VC II
Step 4. Push Text button and "Bingo", your VC is on.

We are the one and only true Keyboard Wizard! All the others are just poor copies.

Tell the programmers "goodbye" until the price is right!

* Note: Our chip leaves your seed keys intact, your box ID does not change *

From the Original Wizard.

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FULL WARRANTY
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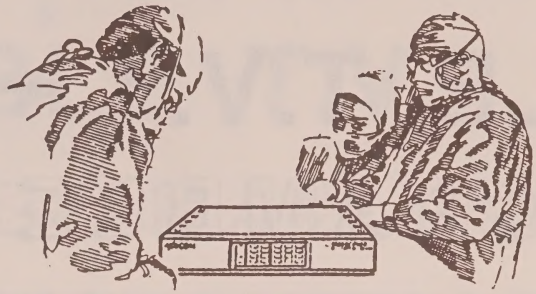
As Seen on Boresight News!

The Good Doctor Can SAVE Your VC II!



If YOU Have VC II Problems... "Dr" Lee Hadlock Has The Cure!

VC II Repair

When you want the best repair services for your VC II, turn to the VC II Doctor, Lee Hadlock. World famous for his knowledge of the VC II, the Doctor can cure what ails your VC II. If you want your VC II repaired right the first time, send it to the VC II Doctor. Don't trust your VC II to anyone else.

Virgin Serial Numbers

Bring your brain dead VC II back to life with a new set of 010 serial numbers and keys. These are virgin numbers taken from boxes that have been used for parts. This is the easy way to give your box a new identity and get it back up on line. Limited Supply. Call for current prices.

Seed Key Dumper

If you haven't saved your seed keys, you'll be sorry. Eventually your VC II battery will go dead, and when it does, say goodbye to those all important seed keys. When this happens, you'll either have to send your VC II back to GI for replacement ($300.00) or get the box cloned. Either way its expensive. You can save all this grief by simply saving your seed keys with Dr. Lee's seed key dumper. Just $75.00.

Flexi-Strip Jumper

Dr. Lee's own invention, the Flexi-Strip jumper, takes all the work out of installing sockets on a VC II. This neat device is fool proof, and can be used on any VC II. The simple, no headache way to add that all important socket to your own VC II. A must for every VC II owner! Just $59.00.

To learn more about "Dr " Lee's products and services, call 1-609-931-0655 for a recorded message.

Watch Lee Hadlock on Boresight News, W5, 01, 9:00 EST, Thursday & Sunday Nights!

Lee Hadlock, Inc.
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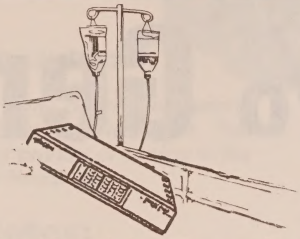
We Have Batteries!

$8.00 each (Single Lot)
$6.00 each (10 or more)

Now YOU can Become a VC II Doctor



With Lee Hadlock's Repair Seminar

Do you want to learn how to repair VC II's so you can earn extra revenue?
Do you want to stop sending your boards out to be repaired by someone you don't know?
Do you want to stop the paper trail to your door?
Do you want to learn about all the software technology and how it works?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then you need to attend this seminar.

Here are a few things you'll receive:

- Complete Schematics
- Detailed Service manual
- Diagnostic Software
- Key Extraction for old and new (for an additional $50.00)
- Consultation with those in the know
- Parts sources and prices

So if you don't know and want to know, this is the place for you.

The total cost is $500.00. This is a two day weekend seminar that will be in Sept. or Oct., this year. It will be in Philadelphia, PA and San Diego, CA, and if there is enough response another seminar will be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

So if you're interested, please send your check or money order for $250.00 (pre-registration fee) to:

LEE HADLOCK, INC.

528 First Avenue
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

Note: If there is not enough response, a full refund will be given to all, and with your payment comes an interesting information packet.

Thanks,

The Doctor.

100% Genuine

Keyboard Wizard Plus

Complete Package Includes:

* Wizard Calculator Chip
* Wizard Data Chip
* Wizard Run Chip

Note: Calculator chip must be used in a 0100-0106 board. Run Chip will work on either 0100 or 0181 board

Total Price $1,000

C.O.D. only cash or certified checks.

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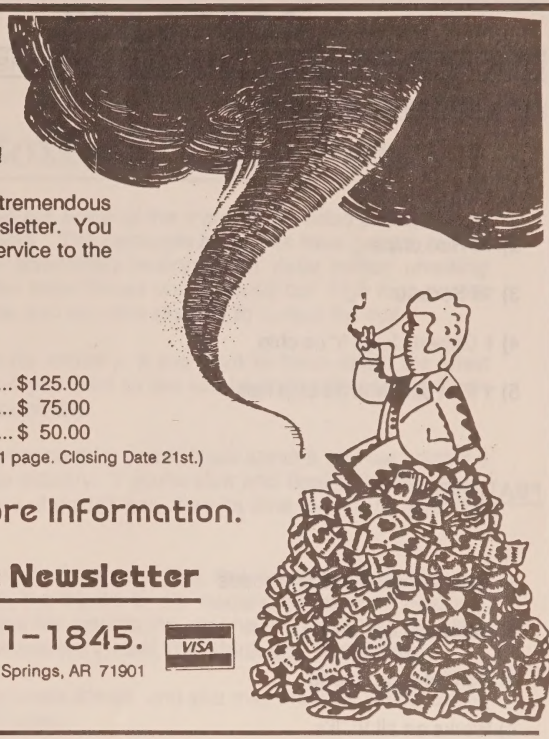

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Our advertisers tell us they are *blown away* by the tremendous response they get from their ads in The Black Box Newsletter. You too can see how it pays to advertise your product or service to the 10,000 monthly readers of The Blank Box Newsletter.

Current Ad Rates:

Full Page $125.00
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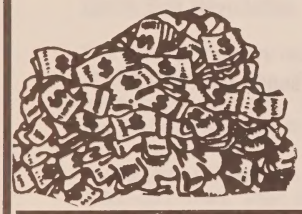
1/4 Page ..... $ 50.00
(No Charge for Typesetting Ad. All Rates based on 8.5 X 11 page. Closing Date 21st.)

Call Today For More Information.

The Blank Box Newsletter



MasterCard 1-501-321-1845. VISA

100 Bridge St. #27, Hot Springs, AR 71901

Attention Advertisers!

The Post Office just increased the cost to mail The Blank Box Newsletter by 25%. So, for the first time in two and one half years, we have been forced to raise our ad rates. Effective next issue our ad rates will increase as follows:

Full Page $150.00
Half Page $100.00
1/4 Page $75.00

There is still no charge for typesetting your ad.

We are sorry for any inconvenience that these changes might cause.

We appreciate your support!

Resort Publishing Company
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Hot Springs, Ar 71901
1-501-321-1845

COOP'S BOX

NO COMPUTER NEEDED OR EXPENSIVE HARDWARE

ANYONE CAN BE A DEALER

1) 1 Master loader

2) 15 Run chips

3) 15 Sockets

4) 1 Generic keys 'r' us chip

5) 1 IBM disk with 30 chip files

PRICE: $475.00 Complete

Additional run chips 15 for $200.00

All Orders sent C.O.D. U.P.S.

FEATURES

1) Keeps original ID# and seeds

2) Parental Lockout

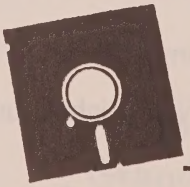
3) Normal setup mode

4) Works on all VCII's

5) PPV operation

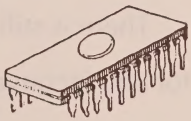
6) Automatic update

7) Full easy instructions



SOFTWARE

COOP'S BOX



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THIS PRODUCT SOLD FOR TEST ONLY, NOT INTENDED FOR ILLEGAL USE

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Magic Chips, Black Boxes & Video Piracy

"Magic Computer Chips and home-made Black Boxes are some of the tools of the video pirate, whose goal is to right the injustice of satellite signal scrambling. The corporate hoodlums have gained control of the satellite industry and they have forced their scrambling monopoly on three million unwilling American families. The battle to free the airwaves has been forced underground but high tech pirates are gaining ground. The empire still controls the media, and we must struggle to spread the truth."

If you want to know about the **dark side** of the satellite industry, if you want to know about the latest developments in **black boxes** and **magic chips**, and if you want to see ads by companies selling these products, then you will want to read **The Blank Box Newsletter**.

While we don't encourage video **Piracy,** we think it is important for you to know about it, and we present it in a way that scares the power structure of the satellite industry. If you're **sick and tired** of having someone else decide what information and product ads you shouldn't see, then its time for you to read **The Blank Box Newsletter**.

The satellite industry has **suffered**, and we think you should know why. Yes, they have tried to force us out of business and yes, they made us change our name, but thanks to our readers, we have survived and have grown stronger. The **corporate thugs** that control the satellite industry have tried to hide the truth, but we have exposed them for what they are. For the whole story, read **The Blank Box Newsletter.**

A one year subscription to **The Blank Box Newsletter** costs $24.95, and you may order by simply calling 1-501-321-1845. Visa, MasterCard, Checks & COD accepted.

For a FREE sample of The Blank Box Newsletter call 1-501-321-1845.

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The Blank Box Newsletter

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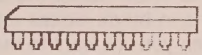
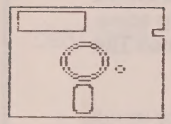
Method of payment: Check Money Order Is This a Renewal? Yes No

D.B. SYSTEMS PRESENTS

"DOOMSDAY" KEYBOARD ENTRY CHIPSET
THE CHIP THAT CANNOT BE TURNED OFF

DO IT YOURSELF





PROGRAMS OR
20 RUN CHIPS
AND 1 LOADER

$1000.00

BLUE KEYS ARCHIVED

SERVICES

* DOOMSDAY PROGRAMS
* HIGH SECURITY CLONE MASTERS (W/ BLUE KEYS)
* 0181 KEYS
* DO IT YOURSELF KITS WITH COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS
* TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

WHO IS D. B. SYSTEMS???

D. B. SYSTEMS HAS BEEN IN THE SATELLITE BUSINESS SINCE 1981. WE ARE DEVOTED TO PROVIDING AN AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE VC 2 SOLUTION. EVERY SALE IS FULLY GUARANTEED AND BACKED BY DEDICATED SATELLITE PROS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU.

INTRODUCING.....

THE REVOLUTIONARY DOOMSDAY PROGRAM. THIS IS NOT A CLONE EXPAND YOUR CHANNEL SELECTION. MOST IMPORTANT!!! IT CAN'T BE SHUT OFF.

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A Complete De-Scrambling Service Offering:

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- Complete Line of EPROM Equipment
- EPROM Software Tools
- EPROMS (27128), & sockets
- Turn on & Repair of 018 Boards
- 018 Keys
- 018 Key Pullers
- Telephone Tap Detectors
- Hats & T-Shirts
- **Keyboard Wizard**
- Complete Units Also Available
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For More Information Call or write:

Clear Vision

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All Transactions and Inquiries strictly confidential.

TESTRON PROMISES & TESTRON DELIVERS!

FREE

018 Battery Replacement Module and 018 Key Extraction Module

if

you previously purchased our 010 BRM for $1,250.00

(JUST SEND US A COPY OF OUR INVOICE)

IN ADDITION EACH UPGRADE KIT CONTAINS:

1 - 20 page 018 BRM manual
3 - blank 018 key & ram table sheets
1 - 018 3M PROTEC test module
6 - 68 picofarad capacitors
1 - 3.0 matrix (stock) U 30 replacement chip.

Thank you for allowing TESTRON, Inc. to serve your needs. We at TESTRON respect the confidence you have placed in our company and products. Please be assured we will make every effort to justify this confidence. Additional BRM upgrades will be provided FREE of charge in the future - if a new series of boards are manufactured.

TESTRON P.O. Box 130 (184 Jericho Tpke.) • Floral Park, NY 11002 • 516-358-9414

NEW

018 Battery Replacement Module and 018 Key Extraction Module

Own the most powerful tool ever designed for you, the professional TVRO dealer. The BRM designed, manufactured and sold only by TESTRON will allow you to read, modify and restore data to ALL consumer VC's. Never a need to purchase any other data processing equipment. FREE upgrades to meet ALL future requirements.

SIMPLE TO USE AS 1,2,3.

1) **Read Keys**
2) **Use BRM**
3) **Install 018 3M PROTEC.**

No need for expensive EPROM copiers or complicated computer programs. Self sustaining. Allows complete testing of all consumer services, available on the VCII.

Each BRM kit includes: 2 new batteries, 2 easy to follow manuals (010 & 018), 1 ram configuration chip, 6 blank key & ram table sheets, 1 018 3M PROTEC test module, 6 68 picofarad capacitors and 1 3.0 matrix (stock) U 30 replacement chip. Unlimited telephone technical support.

Sold only to TVRO dealers for archiving data and replacing batteries. Not intended for - and SHOULD NOT - be used for cloning or inserting 018 keys in 010 units.

SUPER USER FRIENDLY!!

only

$1,295.00

(available now - order today)

as mentioned on SCRAMBLE FACTS

Shipping $6.00. Add $3.50 COD. (Cash, certified check or MO on COD).

VISA **516-358-9414** MasterCard COD

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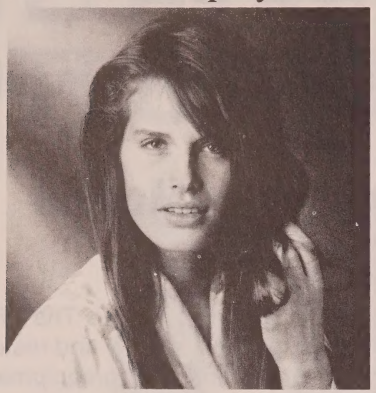
"My hair used to just lie there and play dead."



Even if I washed it every day, my hair was still blah. Limp. Yuck. And it was so dull, I kept it pulled up and under my hat.

But then I discovered **TESTRON'S PROTEC** test devices. And my whole life changed.

Because **PROTEC** test devices aren't just a pretty module with some fancy integrated circuits. They're some of the most advanced test equipment in the world (and this includes MARS and JUPITER).

Each **PROTEC** test device comes with an unconditional warranty. Should it EVER fail it will be replaced or upgraded FREE of charge!

Backed by a software development company in business over 21 years, at the same address for 15 years.

Makes troubleshooting a VC a breeze. Easier to use than a blow dryer.

See how a **PROTEC** module can change YOUR life.

Order one now, before you forget.

You'll see....

TESTRON 184 Jericho Tpke. (P.O. Box 130) • Floral Park, NY 11002 • 516-358-9414

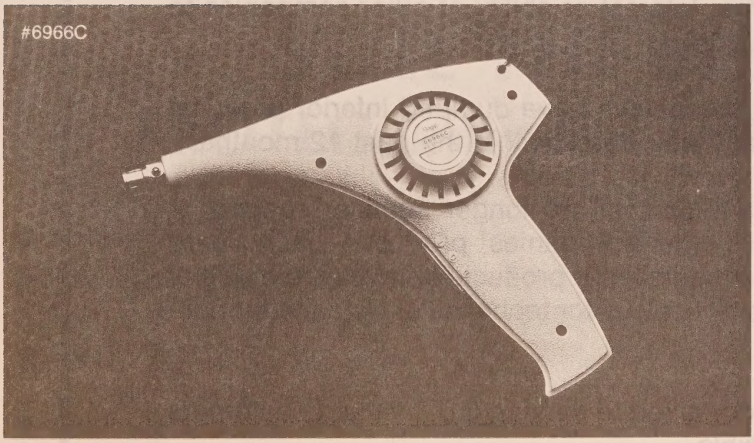
THE ULTIMATE HEAT GUN

800°F in 8 seconds

The Ungar 6966C Industrial Heat Gun (with a flow adaptors set)

Highly efficient and comfortable to use, the 6966C is the lightest industrial heat gun available. The 6966C has proven itself in production plants, laboratories and service centers for every application from decapsulation, encapsulation, reflow soldering, epoxy curing and shrink film packing to cooling and drying components, expanding frozen fasteners and hot melt adhesive reflow and vinyl repair. It's also safe and effective for shrink tubing applications involving polyvinyls, oelefins, TFE and other high temperature heat shrink materials.

A 3 way cool/off/heat switch is conveniently located at the trigger position. Use the #6958 baffle to produce a very hot and fast ¼ inch fine flow.



NOW ONLY

$124.20 *(plus shipping)*

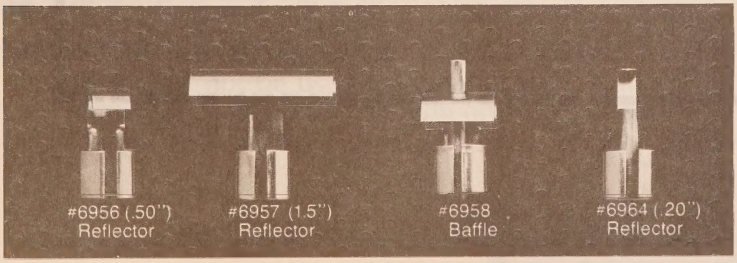
SAVE $24.25

ONLY

$99.95

(plus shipping)

with your purchase of a PROTEC 018 3D Test Device.



TESTRON 184 Jericho Tpke. (P.O. Box 130) • Floral Park, NY 11002 • 516-358-9414

TESTRON'S REPAIR DEPARTMENT

Since the beginning, TESTRON has been repairing VC's. In recent months the volume of repairs has become staggering. The reasons for this increase are:

1) Our superior staff and ability to repair 99% of all boards within 7-10 days at a reasonable cost.

2) The lack of time, interest or ability of other companies to support repair departments.

3) More than 16 companies have dumped inferior products on the market and closed their doors within the past 12 months.

For these reasons TESTRON will no longer service, support or repair VC's that contain other companies' products. Each board sent to us for repair must contain our products or involve the sale of our products. Please do not call us for technical assistance for non-TESTRON products.

We at TESTRON are committed to serving OUR valued customers in the fastest time possible.

TESTRON 184 Jericho Tpke. (P.O. Box 130) • Floral Park, NY 11002 • 516-358-9414

Choosing the wrong company for VC2 Accessories will make you the center of attention!

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PROTEC universal test device

- for testing VCs 2000, 2100, and IRD with address number A0100 thru A0106.
- Complete with "Pay per View" and front panel toggle option.
- NO ID # required. A simple U30 replacement module, complete with socket.
- Each PROTEC comes with a 4 page manual covering: installation, soldering precautions, helpful hints and trouble shooting guide.
- FREE replacement if this product should EVER prove defective. Free software upgrades, if necessary.
- Still the best and still ONLY $225.00, plus shipping.
- PROTEC is a test instrument. It is not intended to deprive parties of signal income and should not be used for this purpose. It should not be sold to VC owner for "pirate" purposes. PROTEC will only be sold to TVRO dealers and techs and only as a test instrument.

Testron

VISA

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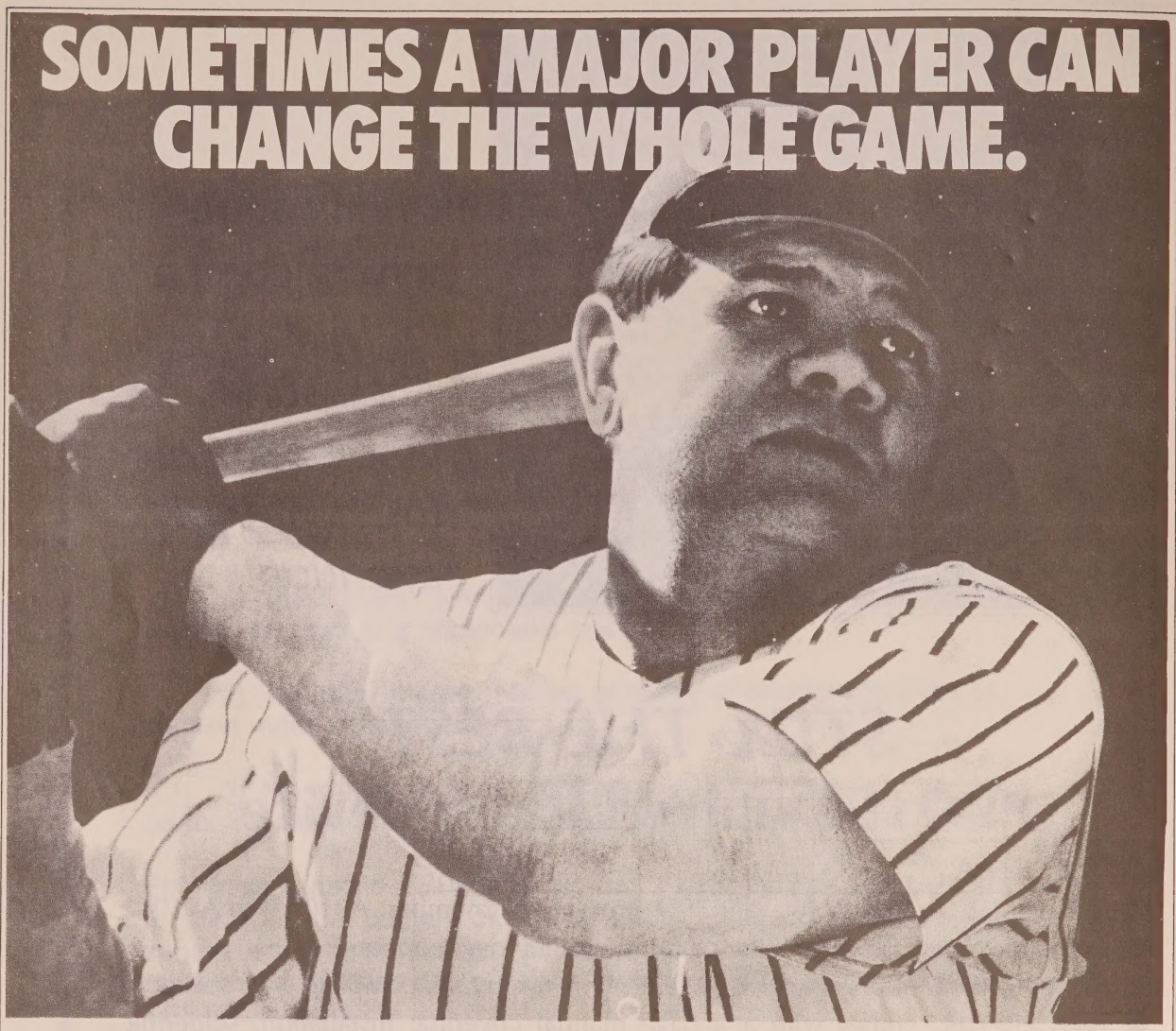
C.O.D.



Introducing Testron's NEW

Protec 018 Series

3-D test device
(decipher data detection)

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